

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 225

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 35th anniversary of the founding of the North Carolina Community College System.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 7, 1998

Mr. FAIRCLOTH (for himself and Mr. HELMS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the 35th anniversary of the founding of the North Carolina Community College System.

Whereas the General Assembly of North Carolina adopted the first Community College Act and provided funding for community colleges in 1957;

Whereas Governor Terry Sanford appointed a Governor's Commission on Education Beyond the High School in 1962, that brought about the unifying of industrial education centers and community colleges into 1 system;

Whereas the General Assembly of North Carolina enacted legislation in 1963 establishing a State Department of Community Colleges, under the State Board of Education;

Whereas in the early 1970's, the growth rate of community colleges exceeded 10 percent annually, and in 1974 the growth rate reached 33 percent;

Whereas the General Assembly of North Carolina reestablished the State Department of Community Colleges in 1979, and made the department independent of the State Board of Education, effective on January 1, 1981;

Whereas in 1983, the North Carolina Community College System celebrated the system's 20th anniversary, having emerged as the Nation's third largest State network of community colleges;

Whereas the North Carolina Community College System began with 6 community colleges and has grown to include 59 post-high school learning institutions;

Whereas in 1997 Congress passed the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 that established the Hope Scholarship Credits which provided a \$1,500 tax credit for community college students to help defray the cost of their education, thus allowing many more students the opportunity to attend classes;

Whereas by attracting more students to community colleges with the Hope Scholarship Credits, a larger number of students are being taught valuable job skills;

Whereas by improving the training and skills of our Nation's workers in community colleges, our Nation is creating better jobs in manufacturing and technology throughout the United States, thus keeping our Nation competitive in the global marketplace;

Whereas by recruiting businesses to locate or expand their operations in North Carolina with the promise that North Carolina community colleges will train their workforce,

hundreds of thousands of jobs in North Carolina have been created;

Whereas 1 out of every 6 adults enrolls at a community college each year;

Whereas enrollment in community colleges is expected to exceed 800,000 students by the end of the year 2000;

Whereas community colleges train 95 percent of North Carolina's firefighters and more than 80 percent of North Carolina's law enforcement officers;

Whereas basic law enforcement training students from community colleges show a 98 percent passing rate on North Carolina licensing and certification exams;

Whereas community colleges educate 65 percent of North Carolina's registered nurses, and since 1990, community college nursing graduates have achieved a nearly 95 percent passing rate on the North Carolina licensure exam;

Whereas the North Carolina Community College System has created a world-class workforce, with almost 297,000 adults trained in 1997 through occupational extension classes and in-plant training courses;

Whereas The Wall Street Journal, the Associated Press, Business Week magazine, and Fortune magazine all recognized the excellent business and industry services in the North Carolina community colleges in 1997;

Whereas North Carolina's community colleges confer 1 out of every 5 of North Carolina's high school diplomas;

Whereas more than 127,000 adults in North Carolina enroll annually in various basic skills programs in community colleges;

Whereas nearly 13,000 literacy classes are offered annually
by North Carolina community colleges at approximately
2,000 community sites; and

Whereas more than 13,600 of North Carolina's community
college students increased their income by millions of dol-
lars last year and saved North Carolina \$450,000 in wel-
fare payments: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that the
2 people of the United States should celebrate the 35th an-
3 niversary of the founding of the North Carolina Commu-
4 nity College System, and all that this great system has
5 done to educate and train the people of North Carolina.

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